consternation into which the inhabitants of Halstead were thrown by the sudden falling of the greatest monument that was ever erected in this part of the country may be more easily imagined than described; hundreds of persons might be seen flocking to the spot, and I believe I do not exaggerate if I say there were near three thousand persons within an hour after it fell. The shrieks and screams were dreadful to hear; almost every one expecting that not less than from twelve to fifteen persons were beneath the ruins.

The church was to have been consecrated on the 31st of this month, and the tower and spire altogether would have been 150 feet high.

Yours, most respectfully, G. C.

Halstead, July 15.

[As we judge our correspondents take the same interest as ourselves in all matters of the construction and failure of buildings, we should be obliged by any exact particulars as to the nature of the work and the cause of its ruin. —Ed.]

Miscellanea.

Piccadilly Improvement Bill.—A bill is now on its way through Parliament to widen and improve Piccadilly, in the city of Westminster. It is under the care of the Earl of Lincoln, M.P., and Mr. John Young, the Secretary of the Treasury, and contains eight clauses. The first clause empowers the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to widen the carriage-road and south side foot-way of so much of the street called "Piccadilly," in the parish of St. George, Hanover-square, as lies between Bolton-street on the east, and Park-lane on the west, and to take and use for that purpose so much of Her Majesty's "Green" Park, in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, as will make Piccadilly, from Bolton-street to Park-lane aforesaid, of an uniform width of 70 feet, or thereabouts. The second clause empowers the commissioners to alter, raise, lower, and shut or stop up the carriage-way and foot-way aforesaid during the progress of the works, to put up bars and posts, and to make general orders for regulating the passage of carts, carriages, and horses. The street, as widened, is to be repaved by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, either with stone or wood, or it may even be macadamized. The portion of the Green Park, appropriated towards the widening of Piccadilly, is to be severed from the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and annexed to that of St. George, Hanover-square. The whole of Piccadilly, between Bolton-street and Park-lane, when so widened and improved, is to be kept in repair at the expense of the last-mentioned parish. This act is to be deemed a public act.

Destructive Fire at Slough.—On Monday afternoon, a very destructive fire broke out in the recently erected mansions at Upton-park, near Slough, the property of Mr. J. T. Bedborough, the extensive builder, of New Windsor. As soon as the intelligence of the fire reached Windsor, two companies of the Scotch Fusilier Guards left Windsor, with the barrack engine, for the scene of the conflagration, followed by two engines from the Castle, the Windsor and Eton College engines, and several others from the vicinity; but such was the ascendancy that the flames had obtained before their arrival, that all attempts (although there was a plentiful supply of water) to preserve the property were totally ineffectual, and three houses were completely gutted forming the west end of Victoria-terrace. We understand the property is insured to the amount of 3,000*l.* (about one-half of its value) in the London Union Fire-office. It is supposed that the fire broke out in the basement of the house (situate at the eastern end of the Terrace, the wind at the time blowing strongly from the westward) in which a fire had been lighted by the workmen who were employed in some zinc works connected with the buildings. Such was the rapidity with which the flames extended, that several of the workmen lost their clothes, and a large portion their tools, which were consumed before they had time to secure them.

Royal Academy.—In the House of Commons on the 9th instant, Mr. Hume moved "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that, as patroness and comptroller of the Royal Academy of Arts, she will be graciously pleased to take into consideration the laws and regulations of that institution, with a view of rendering it more conducive to the advancement of the fine arts, better suited to the spirit and circumstances of the present age, and more consonant with the original intention of its royal founder, George III." The hon. member was proceeding, in support of his motion, to arraign the conduct of the Royal Academy, as impeding rather than assisting the progress of art, and to argue the right of the people under the charter to free admission to its exhibitions, when an hon. member moved that the house be counted, and there being only thirty members present, the house adjourned.

St. Marylebone Bank for Savings, 76, Welbeck-street.—Established 5th July, 1830. Comparative statement of progress at specified periods during the last seven years.

	Open Deposit Accounts.	Sums invested with National Debt Commissioners.
	£.	£.
On 5th July. 1838	10,703	179,381
,, 1839	11,620	216,017
,, 1840	12,445	243,469
,, 1841	12,881	260,852
,, 1842	13,100	275,072
,, 1843	13,820	305,383
,, 1844	14,638	340,509

D. Finney, Assistant Secretary.

New Harbour at Aberdeen.—The works for the new harbour at Aberdeen have been contracted for by Messrs. Oldham, builders and railway contractors, of Cheltenham. The sum is 99,660*l.* When completed, the new harbour will be one of the most commodious in the kingdom.

The Artesian Well near Paris.—The volume of water supplied by the Artesian Well of Grenelle was measured a few days ago, and found to have lost nothing of its force or quantity. The source furnishes 2,000,000 quarts of water per 24 hours, which is more than sufficient for the consumption of the quarter of the Pantheon, where immense reservoirs have been constructed to receive it. The water is as limpid as filtered Seine water, and has continued clear since tubes have been inserted in the aperture.—*Constitutionnel.*

Singular Circumstance.—Lately, as some workmen were employed in quarrying a rock close to the Tweed, about a quarter of a mile below Rutherford-mill, a gold thread was discovered embedded in the stone at a depth of eight feet. How long this remnant of a former age has remained in the situation from which it was taken will baffle the skill of the antiquary or geologist to determine. A small bit of the thread has been sent to our office for the inspection of the curious.—*Kelso Chronicle.*

National Property in France.—A general statement of the national estates and property, with an estimate of value, has been distributed to the members of the Chamber of Deputies. The gross amount is 1,287,900,000f. (51,480,000*l.*) The portion appropriated to the public service amounts to about 550,000,000f. (22,000,000*l.*), and the woods and forests to 729,000,000f. (29,000,000*l.*)

Longevity of Trees.—The following trees are calculated to live—elm about 335 years; cypress, 350; cheirostemon, 400; larch, 575; orange, 630; olive, 700; ornamental plane, 720; cedar, 800; lime, 1,147; oak, 1,500; yew, 2,820; baobab, 5,150; taxodium, 6,000.

On Wednesday week, his Royal Highness Prince Albert presided at a meeting of the commission for promoting and encouraging the fine arts in the rebuilding the Palace of Westminster.

The Health of Towns Commission had a meeting on the 9th instant at Gwydyr House, Whitehall.

A poor little sweep was suffocated in a flue at Goldings, Herts, on Friday week.

Stourbridge Bridge.—It has been ordered that this bridge be repaired. The cost will be 600*l.*

It is in contemplation to convert the Tunbridge Wells Theatre shortly into a corn market.

Tenders.

Tenders delivered for Messrs. R. Barratt and Sons' premises, Beech-street, Barbican. Quantities provided, and tenders opened in presence of contractors.—W. Wallen and Son, Surveyors, 1, Circus-place, Finsbury.—July 13.

Piper	£769
Farnival	748
Webb	735
Waterlow	705
Ashby	695
Ward	678
Trego	660
Haynes and Co.	650

Tenders delivered for building two third-rate houses and offices on the east side of Holford-square, Pentonville.—Mr. James Harrison, Architect.

Thomas Lawrence	£2,330	0	0
C. Hellis	2,125	12	0
Lawrence and Sons	2,116	0	0
John Hall	2,084	0	0
C. Tibbetts	2,050	0	0
John Jay	1,984	0	0
Locke and Nesham	1,977	0	0
W. Smith	1,957	0	0
H. Freeman	1,596	0	0
W. M. Hill	1,371	0	0
W. Watkins	1,365	15	6

Tenders for the Repairs and Painting of the Police Station West Smithfield.—T. Bunning Architect.

Johnson	£98	0	0
Colbatch	91	0	0
Buzzard	89	0	0
Self	72	10	0
G. Cooke	72	0	0
Chandler	49	0	0

The lowest tender was accepted.

Tenders delivered for erecting a new Hopital. The Guardians of the Poor of the Union Workhouse, Aston, near Birmingham.

Davies, Birmingham	£1,515
Watson, Whitacre	1,494
Greensall, Erdington	1,365
Norton, Birmingham	1,350
Warden, do.	1,329
Dredge, do.	1,297
Johns, do.	1,275
Dewsberry, do.	1,270
Machin, Erdington	1,260
Hardwick, Birmingham	1,239
Henfield do.	1,911

The lowest tender was accepted.

Tenders delivered for erecting a School at the Workhouse of the parish of St. Mary, Newington.

Hawes	£1,205	0	0
Wood	1,198	0	0
Colvee	1,196	0	0
Warren	1,180	15	0
Peacock	1,173	10	0
Plasket and Shelton	1,152	0	0
Burtenshaw	1,145	0	0
Ward	1,135	0	0
Geary	1,132	0	0
Cooper and Davies	1,090	0	0
Mason	1,010	0	0
Wilson	944	0	0
Cuttress	935	0	0

The tenders were opened in the presence of the parties.

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